it is not feasible to quantify the exact amount.

(b) Yes Sir. It is difficult to withdraw the halts once provided. However, continuance of the halt is reviewed from time to time.

Recruitment in Railways

3691. PROF. SAURIN BATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have decided to recruit 20000 persons less out of an estimated 50000 persons recruited each year, during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such a decision ; and

(c) whether Government would review the decision, considering its adverse effect on the country's employment potential ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Non-implementation of Exlakhi-Balurghat rail link

3692. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the hardships of the people of Balurghat due to the non-implementation of Exlakhi-Balurghat rail link ; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to begin work during 1992-93 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This work remains on the list of sanctioned works. Resumption of works on the project would depend upon the availability of resources in the coming years.

Case of coal labourers of Loco Shed, Trichy

3693. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India has given its verdict in Writ Petition number 838 of 1988 dated, 14th December, 1988 regarding the case of coal labourers of Loco Shed, Trichy in Southern Railway ;

(b) if so, the details of the Judgement ; and

(c) the action taken by Government to implement the orders of the Supreme Court ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Supreme Court in their judgement directed the Central Government to take appropriate action under Section 10 of the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act in the matter of prohibiting the employment of contract labour in the work of loading and unloading in the Southern Railway within six months. It was also stated in the judgement that it was open to the Railway Administration to take a decision to abolish contract labour on its own without waiting for the decision of the Central Government. The Supreme Court also directed that the services of workmen involved should not be terminated in the meantime.

(c) The Railway Administration decided not to abolish the contract

labour system on its own. Section 10 of the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 provides for consultation with the Central Advisory Contract Labour Board before any decision in the matter of prohibition of contract labour system in any process/opration is taken by the appropriate Government, that is the Ministry of Labour in this case. The ministry of Labour convened a meeting of the Central Advisory Contract Labour Board to consider the issue. In the meeting it was decided to constitute a new tripartite committee for study and necessary recommendations.

Parallel B.G. line between Madurai and Maniyachi in Southern Railway

3694. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any final decision has been taken regarding the representation of having parallel B.G. line between Madurai and Maniyachi in Southern Railway ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to connect Madras with Madurai by a parallel B.G. line ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been decided to convert Madurai-Maniyachchi MG route into BG.

(c) to (e) No. Sir. However, conversion of Madras-Tiruchchirappally (*via* Chord)-Dindigul has been included in the Budget for 1992-93.

Conversion between Dindigul-Madurai and Maniyachi

3695. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state :

(a) whether the M.G. line *via* Manmadurai in Southern Railway has become important in view of conversions taking place between Dindigul, Madurai and Maniyachi ;

(b) whether Government have made any study on Passenger and goods traffic to be handled through this line ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ;

(d) whether Govt. propose to modernise Manmadurai Junction under Model Railway stations scheme ;

(e) if so, the details thereof ; and

(f) if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Development/modernisation of stations is undertaken on need-based programme depending on the growth in traffic and subject to availability of funds.

हरियाणा और राजस्थान के जिला मुख्यालयों को रेल-मार्ग से जोड़ा जाना

3696. श्री महेन्द्र सिंह लाठर : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हरियाणा और राजस्थान के अनेक जिला-मुख्यालयों